

# **Six Meter Club of Chicago**

# **HALO**

[www.k9ona.com](http://www.k9ona.com)

**February 2021**

## **COMING EVENTS**

February Six Meter Club In Person Meeting has been **CANCELLED!** (*SEE BELOW*)

**NOTE:** Many upcoming hamfests and other public events have been cancelled or rescheduled. Check the ARRL website, [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org), for the latest updates on ham related gatherings.

## **SMCC HOLDING VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Saint John's Lutheran Church, where we normally meet, has been effectively closed down, so we will not be able to hold in-person meetings until the virus situation has been resolved.

Meanwhile, **we have been holding on-the-air meetings via our K9ONA repeater system for about half an hour. Our next meeting is Friday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.**, which is our regular meeting date and time. This provides us with an opportunity to still have an informal gathering as well as conducting necessary Club business, so we encourage our membership to participate!

Members who are not able to access the repeater can still participate using the Echolink system. Please forward your suggestions to Jim, WA9FIH at [WA9FIH@aol.com](mailto:WA9FIH@aol.com). Thanks!

## **DUES FOR 2021 NOW PAYABLE**

Dues for 2021 are now payable – \$20, except second family members, students under the age of 18 and seniors age 65-89, \$12. Members for at least 5 years who are age 90+ are exempt from payment. You may send your check payable to “Six Meter Club of Chicago” to our Treasurer, Kris Lawrentz, KC9TJL, 10995 Basswood Drive, New Buffalo MI 49117. Thanks for your continued support of the Club!

## **ARRL JANUARY VHF CONTEST RESULTS**

Once again this year the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes contest was marked by rather low activity and poor propagation in our area.

Nevertheless, we thank our Club members who were able to participate – we are aware of the following who were on the air: K9BVQ, KA9ERS, WA9FIH, WD9GJK, N9HWY, W9JGH, K9JK, KC9KLA, KD9MHJ, KC9TQF, N9TUQ, and WB9W.

Mike, WD9GJK topped the list with a score of 2,006 points, operating on 50, 144, 222, 432 and 1296 MHz! Jim, WA9FIH and John, K9JK were Rovers – John did a great job of making 307 contacts on all bands 50 through 902 MHz!

Our next major operating activity will be Field Day, which is scheduled for the weekend of June 26-27; let's all hope that the coronavirus situation will be better by then!

## **SIX METER ROUNDTABLE EACH TUESDAY AT 8 P.M.**

Our Six Meter Roundtable Activity Net meets on 50.130 MHz USB Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m., usually for about a half hour. Help keep the band active and join in the ragchew – tell your friends about it too – everyone is welcome!

## **DIGITAL SLOW SCAN TV NET THURSDAY EVENINGS**

Our Digital Slow Scan TV Net meets every Thursday evening for about an hour, beginning at 7:00 p.m., on our two meter repeater.

We use EasyPal software which can be downloaded free from the Internet. A Tigertronics Signal Link USB or similar interface connects your PC and transceiver.

## **K9LH SEEKS SUPPORT FOR SEVERE WEATHER NET**

Paul Mielnicki, K9LH is a trained severe weather spotter, and has expressed an interest in establishing a weekly weather net on the K9ONA repeater system.

Storm and severe weather monitoring and reporting has long been part of Amateur Radio's public service activities, and the most recent example of this was the Hurricane Watch Net which operated for more than 29 hours during Hurricane Laura's track through Louisiana. The HWN collected and forwarded many reports to the National Hurricane Center, using both 7.268 and 14.325 MHz.

Anyone interested in working with Paul regarding his proposal for a weather net, please contact him at [pmielnicki@comcast.net](mailto:pmielnicki@comcast.net).

## **NEW DIGITAL PROTOCOL INTRODUCED FOR WSJT-X**

WSJT-X Version 2.4.0 has introduced a new digital protocol, Q65, designed for "minimal two way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths" such as tropospheric scatter, EME, and other fast fading signals.

The new protocol uses 65-tone frequency shift keying (FSK) and builds upon the weak signal strengths of QRA64. User messages and sequencing are identical to those in FT4, FT8, FST4, and MSK 144. Transmit/receive sequence lengths of 15, 30, 60, 120 and 300 seconds are available.

It is expected that Q65 will enable stations with a modest beam antenna and 100 Watts output or more to contact each other at distance up to 1600 Kilometers most of the time, under otherwise dead band conditions. *(Tnx ARRL)*

## **CHECK IN WITH THE GRUMPIES MORNINGS ON THE SMCC REPEATER**

If you are at home during the morning weekdays, don't forget to check in with the Grumpy Net which meets on our repeater system between 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. It is a good old fashioned rag chew net with some great trivia questions, too! Jim, N9TUQ is the coordinator.

## **FCC TO REQUIRE EMAIL ADDRESSES**

## **ON APPLICATIONS STARTING JUNE 29**

The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence, and will no longer print or provide licensees with hard copies via mail. A Report and Order was adopted on September 16, and the new rules will go into effect on June 29, 2021, six months after publication in the Federal Register.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a current Amateur licensee must apply electronically for modifications such as correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.

## **FCC REDUCES PROPOSED HAM APPLICATION FEE**

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 Amateur Radio application fee was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications." In a Report and Order released December 29, the agency scaled back the fee to \$35 for a new license application, Special Temporary Authority request, rule waiver request, license renewal application, or vanity call sign application. There will be NO fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

Several of our Six Meter Club members, along with many other fellow hams as well as the ARRL, had filed comments in opposition to the proposed fee schedule, which was part of MD Docket 20-270, adopted to implement portions of the 2018 "Ray Baum Act."

(tnx ARRL)

## **SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS ON THE AIR THIS MONTH**

Two special event stations will mark the anniversary of George Washington's birth – Saturday Feb. 13 W4B will be on the air 1400-2000 UTC (8 a.m – 2 p.m. CST) from Fredericksburg VA – check 14.225 and 7.195 MHz. And K4US will be activated from 0800 UTC Feb. 13 until 1400 UTC Feb. 14 from Alexandria VA, on or around 14.250, 14.074, and 7.040 MHz.

## HALOADS...

### For Sale:

Hustler 4BTV 10-40 Meter 4 Band Trap Vertical antenna, Brand New! Never in the wind or weather, lists for \$160 plus shipping, asking \$90 or best offer

Tom Kraus, N9HWV  
847-839-7343

### For Sale:

Heathkit IM-25 VTVM, very good condition, copy of schematic, with probe just finished a complete recalibration .....\$55 or best offer

Heathkit IM-2024 Frequency Counter covers 5 Hz to 512 MHz.....\$125 or best offer

Simpson 303 VTVM w/test leads.....\$75 or best offer

Tektronix Oscilloscope Cart Type 200 With Heathkit IO-4105 Scope..... \$150 or best offer

Mike Huedepohl, WD9GJK  
3532 Raymond Avenue  
Brookfield IL 60513  
708-485-5481  
[WD9GJK@arrl.net](mailto:WD9GJK@arrl.net)

### For Sale:

ICOM IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver two years old, like new.....\$750/offer

CDE Ham II Rotor & Control Box, refurbished.....\$275

TE Systems 6 Meter 0510G Amplifier, 2-10 W in, 170 Watts out.....\$225

RF Concepts 2 Meter Amplifier, 2-117, 10 W in, 170 Watts out .....\$250

Finco 2 Meter 5 el twist beam A 2+2 H & V new... ..\$50

Larsen NMO Mount 10 Meter Verticals, New....\$15 each

Rohn 25G 10' Tower Section, Very Good Cond.....\$75

Ham Radio Callbooks, 1977, 1984, 1989 & 1993 editions..... \$5 each

Peter WB9W  
773-425-6155 or  
[WB9W1949@yahoo.com](mailto:WB9W1949@yahoo.com)

### For Sale:

Extech 480400 Phase Sequence Tester .....\$80/Offer

Fluke 33 True RMS Clamp-on Meter.....\$100/Offer

Fluke 13000S Flex 24 AC Current Probe...\$100/Offer

Fluke 87V True RMS Multimeter .....\$225/Offer

Heathkit HO-13 Panadaptor.....\$100

National HRO-60 Receiver, recapped, excellent condition with original manual, matching speaker, nine coil sets for shortwave bands including bandspread on ham bands, cabinet to hold unused coil drawers. Also includes a plug-in SSB product detector from a QST article which fits in space intended for a NBFM adapter (no mods to the radio). ..... \$400

Shure 404B Hand Mic, new in the box.....\$30

Multi MPA-250 Biamp, 250 Watt Public Address Amp in rack cabinet, like new.....\$150

Ron Fitzgerald, K9ZWR  
5555 South Neva Avenue  
Chicago IL 60638  
773-586-3276  
[ronfitz5555@yahoo.com](mailto:ronfitz5555@yahoo.com)

### For Sale:

ICOM IC-746 PRO HF/VHF All Mode Transceiver with handheld mic and power supply from W9CEJ's estate.....\$600/Offer

Kate Stair, KB9KDC  
708-478-7782

### Wanted:

“Junker” chassis – blown up mobile solid state amp, just need for the case and heat sink – at least 4 inches wide by 5-6 inches or more long.

Paul Mielnicki, K9LH  
9116 Mobile Avenue  
Oak Lawn IL 60453

708-870-4887  
[pmielnicki@comcast.net](mailto:pmielnicki@comcast.net)

**For Sale:**

ICOM ID-880H Dual Band 2m/440 conventional + Digital transceiver, 50 Watts, D-Star. OPC-478U USB Cable, CD, DC power cable, separation cable, [mobile mounting kit](#), [manual](#), [original box](#).....\$400  
Complete Kenwood TS-50S portable package in a fitted carrying case, including AT-50 automatic antenna tuner, mic, 110 VAC power supply. Covers 10-160 Meters, 100 W out. Nice and clean.....\$800

Bob Weiss, W9AVB  
6339 South Kostner Avenue  
Chicago IL 60629  
773-571-2213

**For Sale:**

Huge collection of LP records in original sleeves, very reasonable offer accepted, don't want to go to dumpster

Guy – (708)212-4442  
Berwyn

**For Sale:**

Downsizing collection of vintage hi-fi equipment, all in good working order, clean, mint with no scratches, etc.

Speakers – Altec Lansing, Bozak, Bose, Hartley, some with cabinets. Sony Crossover.

Preamps – Hadley 621E

Amplifiers – Crown, Hadley, McIntosh

Tuners – Marantz, one w/walnut case, one rack mount

Turntables – Fairchild, Panasonic

Disc Player – Panasonic

Tape Recorder – Ampex

Paul Chase  
(708)366-7864  
[paulchasesr@gmail.com](mailto:paulchasesr@gmail.com)

**For Sale:**

Yaesu FT-901DM w/AM filter + desk mic \$500/ofr

Yaesu matching antenna tuner.....\$100 firm

Yaesu FT-767 HF + 6, 2, 432 + hand mic...\$600/ofr

Tom Dombrowski, K9BVQ  
5426 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Court  
Summit IL 60501  
**708-496-8982**

***SOMETHING TO SELL? LIST IT HERE! EMAIL YOUR AD TO [WA9FIH@AOL.COM](mailto:WA9FIH@AOL.COM)***

**WELLNESS NET ON 75 METERS**

The Wellness Net has seen check-ins from more than 40 Illinois counties. Other local and regional VHF/UHF nets have been activated throughout Illinois as well.

The Wellness Net meets daily at Noon Central Time on 3905 kHz, and also uses ECHOLINK conference node WB0VTM-L NODE 824404.

(tnx ARRL)

**SMCC OFFICER ELECTIONS POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY**

Since we have been unable to hold in-person meetings due to the CoVid situation, we have been holding monthly on the air meetings at our usual second Friday of the month 7:30 time slot.

Our present officers have all been renominated and are willing to continue serving the Club, however, we have not had a quorum of members check in to our on the air meetings in the past several months.

We strongly encourage every member who can check into our on the air meetings to do so; we value your input and participation in the Club! Thanks for your continued support, and stay well!

**THE SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO, INC.**

“We desire to promote the Interest of Amateur Radio, foster activity in the HF, VHF, and UHF bands, acquire proficiency in CW operation, provide mutual aid in matters technical. . .”

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PRESIDENT.....Jim, WA9FIH  
WD9GJK  
VICE PRESIDENT.....Joe, KC9TQF  
WA9FIH  
SECRETARY.....Mike, WD9GJK  
TREASURER.....Kris, KC9TJL  
SGT-AT-ARMS.....Gary, KC9IDS  
MEMBERS AT LARGE..... Will, W9WSS

CUSTODIAN OF K9ONA.....Mike,  
NET MANAGER.....Jim,

HISTORIAN.....  
ARRL VE TEST CAPTAIN.....Paul, K9LH  
PROGRAM CHAIR.....Joe, KC9TQF  
DIRECTORS.....(Two Vacancies)

HALO EDITOR.....Jim Novak, WA9FIH  
2335 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
North Riverside IL 60546-1308  
[WA9FIH@arrl.net](mailto:WA9FIH@arrl.net)

CLUB WEB SITE: [www.k9ona.com](http://www.k9ona.com)  
WEBMASTER.....Jim, W9JGH

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The HALO is the official publication of the Six Meter Club of Chicago, a not-for-profit ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club incorporated in the State of Illinois and maintained by and for Radio Amateurs.

**MEETINGS:** Held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month (except December) at St. John's Lutheran Church, southwest corner of 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Brainard Avenue, La Grange IL; enter through south side door adjacent to parking lot.

**NETS:** Six Meter Activity and Ragchew Net, Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. Central Time, 50.130 MHz USB  
Two Meter FM Information Net, Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m. Central time over our K9ONA repeater system, 146.37/97  
ARRL Bulletins, Club news, swap shop, other items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.  
Digital SSTV (Slow Scan Amateur TV) Net, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. on our two meter repeater, using EasyPal software.

**REPEATERS:** The Club operates three open repeaters under the call K9ONA/R. Our Two Meter repeater, located in Hinsdale, uses 146.370 MHz input, 146.970 MHz output, with a three minute timer that must be reset with a short pause after the courtesy tone between transmissions. A 107.2 Hz subaudible (PL) tone is usually required for access. Our 220 repeater, also located in Hinsdale, uses 223.22 MHz in, 224.82 MHz out and requires a CTCSS tone of 110.9 Hz. Our UHF repeater, located in Hinsdale as well, uses 448.300 MHz input, 443.300 MHz output, a four minute timer, and is also "PL" access, requiring a 114.8 Hz tone. The two meter and UHF repeaters also transmit the subaudible CTCSS tone. The repeaters are usually set in cross-link mode.

**AFFILIATIONS:** The Club is a Life Member Club supporting AMSAT, the non-profit Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. We have been named an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and belong to the Illinois Repeater Association.

**CERTIFICATES:** Available for working ten Club members (five if applicant is more than 100 miles from Chicago) on either 50, 144, or 222 MHz. Stations worked must be valid Club members at time of your QSO; repeater contacts do not count. Send log data list with time, date, and band/mode to our Secretary. There is no charge for the award.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** The Club has endowed a perpetual scholarship administered by the ARRL Foundation. It is awarded annually subject to specific criteria listed on the ARRL Foundation's web site, [www.arrlf.org](http://www.arrlf.org), or available from the foundation. Applications are due by December 31 of each calendar year.

**FACEBOOK AND YAHOO GROUP:** The Club's Facebook page is available at: [www.facebook.com/groups/287932964607477/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/287932964607477/).  
The Yahoo Group can be accessed at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K9ONA>.

**HAMFEST:** Our Six Meter Club of Chicago HAMFEST is held annually on the third Sunday in June (June 20, 2021) at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, Illinois. *All Club members are expected to work to insure its success.*

**SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO**  
**2335 SOUTH 2ND AVENUE**  
**NORTH RIVERSIDE IL 60546-1308**

